

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 DODE-00 SS-15

SP-02 FEA-01 PM-05 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

XMB-04 /123 W

-----085119 190108Z /70

R 181614Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6737

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

ERDA

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6521

E.O. 11652: N/

TAGS: TECH, BEXP, BL

SUBJ: NUCLEAR REACTOR FOR COBOEN

1. REGIONAL RESOURCES ATTACHE WAS CALLED IN BY CAPT. F. MARIACA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BOLIVIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION (COBOEN) ON AUGUST 17 TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN COBOEN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NUCLEAR REACTOR.

2. CAPT. MARIACA SAID THAT USG HAD IMPOSED LIMITS FOR EXPORTED URANIUM FUEL OF ABOUT 23 PCT WHEREAS THE REACTOR THAT HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BY NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY NEEDED FUEL OF OVER 90 PCT URANIUM CONCENTRATION. ALSO USG IS REVIEWING NUCLEAR POLICY IN GENERAL AND EXPORT OF ALL FUELS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD UP.

3. COBOEN HAS DECIDED TO NOT OBTAIN THE REACTOR FROM NO. CAROLINA STATE BECAUSE CONVERSION TO USE OF LOWER URANIUM CONTENT FUEL WOULD BE TOO COSTLY AND COBOEN WOULD ALSO BE AT MERCY OF SHIFT IN US POLICY RE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL.

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4. COBOEN HAS CONTACTED GENERAL ATOMIC ABOUT THE COST OF OBTAINING A TRIGA REACTOR. GA HAS SUPPLIED SOME QUOTES BUT COBOEN HAS GONE BACK TO ASK FOR MORE DETAILED FINANCING PLAN. GA WILL BE COMPETING WITH CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT USDOC CONTACT GA AND ASK THEM TO PROVIDE A COMPETITIVE FINANCING PLAN PERHAPS INCORPORATING EXIMBANK LOANS IN ORDER TO COMPETE WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS. RESPONSE SHOULD BE RECEIVED BEFORE END OF SEPTEMBER WHICH IS DATE ON WHICH COBOEN WILL PRESENT VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FOR CHOICE OF SUPPLIER.

6. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN STATUS OF GOB REQUEST TO NEGOTIATE A BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT.
BEAL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: TECH, BEXP, BL, COBOEN, BOLIVIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a4108b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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